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March 6, 2001

FDA Commissioner Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305) Food and Drug Administration 5630 Fisher's Lane, rm. 1061 Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 00D-1598

I am writing to inform you that I find the draft guidance on labeling to be unacceptable. I firmly support the mandatory labeling of genetically engineered or modified foods. Mandatory labeling will provide me with important information that is relevant to me as a consumer.

The FDA's decision to merely encourage voluntary labeling instead of mandating labeling misplaces the burden of proof which rightly should be borne by those who seek to introduce genetically engineered foods into our food supply.

I am expecting the FDA to listen to the will of the people. Mandate mandatory labeling of foods that contain genetically modified ingredients. Very few people have either the time or ability to grow their own food. As a captive audience, consumers should have the right of informed choice regarding the selection of what they want to consume. After all, YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT.

Sincerely,

Tara L. Vargo

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